

Chapter 15  
Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship Program

Section 97800 Chapter Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to the regulations contained in this Chapter:

- (a) "Academic year" means a period of time, usually eight or nine months, during which a full-time college or university student would normally be expected to complete the equivalent of two semesters or three quarters of instruction.
- (b) "Associate degree nursing program" means an education program with a two or three year curriculum, which includes nursing theory and clinical coursework that leads to an associate degree of nursing. Graduates of associate degree programs are eligible to take the state board examination to become registered nurses in California.
- (c) "Contract" means a written agreement between the Office and a recipient of a scholarship which obligates the recipient, in exchange for scholarship(s), to practice their nursing profession for a specified period of time after graduation in a medically underserved area in California.
- (d) "County of need" means a county in California so designated by the Director pursuant to section 128401(b) of the Health and Safety Code.
- (e) "Cultural and linguistic skills and abilities" means possessing cultural and linguistic competence. Cultural and linguistic competency means the ability to understand and respond effectively to the cultural and linguistic needs brought by patients to health care encounters.
- (f) "Direct patient care" means the provision of health care services directly to individuals being treated for, or suspected of having, physical or mental illness. Direct patient care includes preventative care. The first line supervision of direct patient care shall be considered "direct patient care."
- (g) "Director" means the Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.
- (h) "Economic need" means having an income of two hundred (200) percent or less of federal poverty index based on family size.
- (i) "Federal poverty index" means the federal poverty threshold updated annually by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
- (j) "Foundation" means the Health Professions Education Foundation.
- (k) "Full-time student" means a student who is enrolled in a semester, trimester, or quarter program of not less than twelve (12) credit hours or units or their equivalent, and can reasonably expect to graduate, if the

student progresses in good standing, in the recognized number of academic years it takes a full-time student to graduate.

- (l) "Medically underserved area" means:
  - (1) A geographic area within California designated by the Director as
    - a. Medically Underserved Area/Medically Underserved Population (MUA/MUP) or
    - b. Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA);
  - (2) A California Area of Unmet Priority Need for Primary Care Family Physicians as designated by the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission; or
  - (3) A facility determined by the Director pursuant to section 128385 of the Health and Safety Code to be an eligible county health facility or an eligible state-operated health facility.
- (m) "Office" means the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.
- (n) "Part-time student" means a student who is enrolled in a semester, trimester, or quarter program of not less than six (6) credit hours or units or their equivalent.
- (o) "Registered nurse" means a person licensed to practice nursing under the Nursing Practice Act (Business and Professions Code section 2700 et seq.) and who is authorized to place the letters "R.N." after their name.
- (p) "Registered Nurse Education Fund" means the fund established pursuant to section 128400 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (q) "Scholarship" means financial assistance provided to an eligible individual who agrees, in return for the assistance, to practice their nursing profession for a specified period of time in a medically underserved area in California.
- (r) "Service obligation" means the contractual obligation agreed to by a recipient of a scholarship where the recipient agrees to practice their profession for a specified period of time in a medically underserved area in California.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97810 Available Funding

- (a) The Office shall award scholarships to eligible applicants, subject to the availability of funds allocated by the Foundation.

- (b) For each fiscal year of this program, commencing July 1, 2004, the Foundation has allocated thirty (30) percent of the Registered Nurse Education Fund.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97820 Duration of Scholarship Awards

- (a) The Office will award scholarships under this Chapter for not more than one academic year at a time.
- (b) The Office may award scholarships for not more than a total of three academic years if:
- (1) The recipient applies for an additional scholarship;
  - (2) The additional scholarship will not extend the total period of financial assistance beyond three academic years or quarter/semester equivalent; and,
  - (3) The ongoing academic performance of the recipient is reported by the program, school, or institution to be acceptable.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97830 Permissible Scholarship Costs

- (a) A scholarship for each academic year may consist of:
- (1) Tuition (will never be approved for more than that actually charged by a participating school or institution);
  - (2) Reasonable educational expenses including required fees, books, supplies, and educational equipment; and
  - (3) A monthly stipend for the period beginning with the first month of each academic year in which the individual is a participant, and ending with the last month of the academic year.
- (b) The total scholarship amount per year shall not exceed the annual estimated average cost of associate degree nursing programs throughout California for that academic year.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97840 Application Process

- (a) Each person desiring a scholarship shall submit a completed application. The application, "Associate Degree Nursing Program

Scholarship Application”, which is updated annually in November, shall be available from the Office in December.

- (b) Scholarship application deadlines shall be in March and September of each year for scholarships for periods beginning in or after August and December.
- (c) The completed application shall include information and documentation to establish the following:
  - (1) County of residence;
  - (2) Acceptance to or enrollment as a part-time or full-time student in an associate degree nursing program;
  - (3) An official copy of college transcripts for all postsecondary institutions attended;
  - (4) Health-related work experience;
  - (5) Community background, including current or prior residence in a medically underserved area in California;
  - (6) Career goals;
  - (7) Economic need;
  - (8) The scholarship amount requested with justification for amount requested;
  - (9) Length of time before the applicant would be able to provide services in a medically underserved area in California where the applicant would propose to practice;
  - (10) Community involvement, including extracurricular activities;
  - (11) Commitment to practice as a registered nurse for a specific period of time in a medically underserved area in California;
  - (12) Cultural and linguistic skills and abilities;
  - (13) A personal statement indicating qualifications, attributes, or characteristics which would increase the likelihood the applicant would continue to practice in a medically underserved area in California after service obligation has ended; and
  - (14) Any other information the applicant believes is relevant.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97850 Selection Process

- (a) Only persons who reside in a county in need and who are accepted to or enrolled as a part-time or full-time student in an associate degree nursing program may be eligible for this scholarship program.
- (b) In deciding which applicants are eligible to receive scholarships, the Office shall take into consideration those factors which it determines indicate the greatest probability of program success, the needs of

the state in general, and the needs of each specific medically underserved area.

- (c) Special consideration shall be given to:
  - (1) An applicant's economic need; and
  - (2) Applicants who demonstrate cultural and linguistic skills and abilities.
- (d) An applicant who has signed a contract or written agreement with another entity to practice their health profession in exchange for financial assistance, including tuition reimbursement, scholarship, loans, or loan repayment, shall be ineligible to receive a scholarship under this Chapter until the obligation owed to this other entity has been fulfilled.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97860 Obligations of the Scholarship Recipient

- (a) Each recipient shall agree to a service obligation to practice nursing in direct patient care for a specified period of time in a medically underserved area in California.
- (b) The period which the recipient is obligated to serve shall be twelve (12) months for each academic year for which the recipient received a scholarship under this Chapter, or twenty four (24) months, whichever is greater.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97870 Commencement of Service Obligation

Each recipient shall commence the practice of nursing in a medically underserved area in California within six (6) months after completing their associate degree nursing program and upon obtaining their license with the Board of Registered Nursing.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

#### Section 97880 Penalties for Failure to Comply with Requirements of Program

Penalties for failure to comply with the requirements of this program shall be as specified in Section 97737 of Chapter 14 of this Division, except that total repayment may be required in monthly instead of quarterly installments within seven years.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Section 97890 Exceptions to Service or Payment Obligations

Service or payment obligation may be cancelled, waived, suspended, reduced, or delayed as specified in Section 97726 of Chapter 14 of this Division.

Authority cited: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code

Reference: Section 128401, Health and Safety Code